

## Capt. James H. Tevis



Captain James H. Tevis was born July 11, 1835, at Wheeling, West Virginia, to John and Elizabeth McNamee Tevis. He married Emma Boston at St. Louis, Missouri, December 24, 1866, and they had eight children. He founded Teviston in Cochise County, Arizona, in approximately 1880.

James Tevis arrived in Tucson in August 1857 and then spent two years at Apache Pass (before Ft. Bowie was built). His book, "Arizona in the '50s" tells many exciting stories of his time there, dealing with Cochise and the Apache and trying to keep the peace for the Overland Mail Station in the Pass. Tevis joined the Confederate Army at Mesilla, New Mexico in 1860. Tevis entered the Confederate Army as a second lieutenant, and was a Captain when he commanded the Arizona Scouts for two years, Herbert's Battalion, Arizona Cavalry. He was attached to the Second Mounted

Volunteers stationed at Dona Ana, New Mexico, near present day Las Cruces. He was known as "Captain Tevis" for that service, and his commission as a Captain of a large Mississippi River steamer that made runs between St. Louis and New Orleans.

With money from friends in Texas, he located fifty gold and silver claims in the Dos Cabezas Mountains, that later became known as Tevis Mining District. He also patented land fourteen miles north of Ft. Bowie when the Southern Pacific Railroad was being built eastward from Yuma to El Paso, Texas. He filed a homestead to secure the property where he had dug a well with 3 other men. They traveled from Ft. Bowie every day, and returned at night because of the Indian danger.

A few months after the men started the well, the Southern Pacific Railroad erected a telegraph office, a freight house, a depot and a hotel in Teviston. The post office was housed in Tevis' store when the store was completed. The Tevis family: Mrs. Emma Tevis, five girls and one boy settled in their new five-room house. (Josie, Belle, Mary, Minnie, Lettie, and Albert arrived with their mother. Two boys, Granville and Louis, were born in Bowie. Albert died young and is buried in Bowie.) Their home, known as "The Gardens", got its name because Tevis was fond of experimenting with trees, fruits and flowers. James Tevis was very busy, looking after his mining interests and his store. In late 1883 he enlarged his store into a hotel because the Railroad's hotel, depot and other Railroad buildings had burned down. A new Railroad hotel was built and Tevis became the manager. He resigned when the Territorial Governor appointed him to serve as Commissioner of the Mineral Display at the Louisiana Exposition in New Orleans. Captain Tevis was a member of the Fifteenth Legislature and was a good friend of Arizona Territorial Governor Irwin.

James Henry Tevis died in Tucson, Arizona on August 29, 1905 after suffering a stroke. His wife Emma died seven weeks later. Both are buried in Bowie at what is now the Desert Rest Cemetery.